

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003728/25
to the Commission
Robert Biedroń (S&D), Murielle Laurent (S&D)
(25 September 2025)**

Subject: Human rights violations in Mauritania

A recent report by Human Rights Watch documents consistent and severe human rights violations against migrants, including acts of torture, rape and arbitrary detention, perpetrated by various state security forces in countries along migration routes to Europe between 2020 and 2025.

One of the countries which has received direct EU support for migration control operations is Mauritania, a country with which the EU signed a partnership agreement in March 2024. While some EU-funded programmes have supported human rights, refugee protection and development in Mauritania, significant EU investments — over EUR 61 million between 2015 and 2023 and at least EUR 100 million more since 2024 — have instead prioritised the securitisation and reinforcement of Mauritania's police, coast guard and gendarmerie, without adequate safeguards to prevent human rights abuses.

In the light of the above:

1. What criteria does the Commission use to suspend or impose conditions on EU-funded border control and migration management projects in Mauritania in cases of documented human rights violations?
2. How does the Commission ensure that equipment, funding or training provided to Mauritanian security forces under EU programmes do not contribute to human rights abuses?
3. How will the Commission ensure greater transparency of EU foreign aid disbursements in Mauritania, including the publication of detailed budgets, project objectives and lists of implementing partners?

Submitted: 25.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(19 January 2026)**

All contracts signed by the EU include human rights clauses that allow the Commission to take adequate measures in case such clauses are not respected. Each individual situation must be assessed based on substantial evidence and its own merits, before any decision to suspend or terminate the agreement is taken, to guarantee a proportionate and appropriate approach.

The Commission's external actions are firmly rooted in a human rights-based approach. Safeguarding protection for those in need and ensuring respect for the human rights and dignity of all migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are fundamental principles to be respected in all Commission's initiatives, including in EU-funded projects related to migration.

The Commission ensures that EU funds are disbursed in line with contractual obligations to respect human rights and pays special attention to ensure that EU's support, also when targeted at reducing irregular migration, is always designed to uphold the rights of migrants and refugees, including the right to human dignity.

The Commission publishes its tenders and grants at the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ⁽¹⁾. More specifically, and to further reinforce transparency, migration related projects and documentation can also be found at Migration and forced displacement Commission website ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.

⁽²⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-forced-displacement_en.